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**HW:** Reflection #2

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A literature review is a summary and evaluation of articles written in scholarly journals. It is a secondary source, for a literature review is an analysis of primary sources. By reading, these peer reviewed journals, it helps us gain background knowledge about our selected topic of study. Therefore, it gives us an opportunity to gain insight into the topic (and problem) we are going to investigate in an area of study. It will deepen our knowledge about the different ideas pertaining to the topic of interest. A literature review allows us to conduct a critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of different studies in the field of education. Literature review affords us the opportunity gain the following research skills: differentiate between various types of journals; assess prior research to find out about different theorists and instructional strategies.

My view is that a literature review writer must go through different steps in order to start writing a literature review. First, we must differentiate between various types of journals to be able to search for scholarly journals to use for our literature review. Next, we review and evaluate scholarly journals pertaining to our topic. Finally, we must analyze and synthesize all the information derived from these scholarly journals, and come up with our own conclusions or a deeper examination and understanding of the topic at hand.

We need to differentiate between various types of journals, such as refereed journals, peer review journals, trade magazines, and others, so that we could use reliable sources when writing a literature review. Evidence for this idea is found, in the requirements for this course— we need to use 10-25 refereed articles. Our references should be from accredited scholars and researchers. For example, by reviewing these peer reviewed articles we can have a better understanding of the topic of study from an accredited source. As a result of using these scholarly journals, we can become knowledgeable, for example, about the topic’s terminology from accredited researchers on the subject. These scholars will introduce us with the theories and strategies in the field of study. These secondary sources will lead us, within their text citations, to other primary sources we need to use for our literature review.

Assessing prior research is important to find out scholarly researchers’ conclusions and recommendations related to the topic at hand. Another idea that supports my view is, I believe, that accessing prior research allows us to see how other authors create a review and evaluation of a previously published work (primary sources). For instance, it gives us change to read an opposite view or a different perspective on the subject. Most of all, it is important for us to see if we agree or disagree with the conclusions, and recommendations given by these scholarly reviewers. We will be able to accept or “pole holes” with our own understanding of the subject. Most of all, we will have a clear understanding of the topic to be able to write our own literature review. In addition, examining other literature reviews will give us an opportunity to see how a literature review is written, and, hopefully, we will learn all the elements of what constitutes a good literature review. At the same time, we will learn research skills by using different databases such as: Sage Education Full Text. JSTOR, and others. In conclusion, literaturereview is important in that it allows us to use the appropriate scholarly sources, differentiate between various types of journals, and assess prior research, theorists and instructional strategies.

**References**

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